



I am somewhat bemused to be putting this together when our club is closed for yet another period of “lockdown” – not as severe as earlier in the year but still under Stage 2 restrictions that make it impossible for us to open for play. As we all realise, playing our game, bridge, presents unique challenges for social distancing (with four people per table all in touching distance) with everyone handling the cards and boards, and also rotating tables as East/West move around the room.

By the time you get this newsletter . . . who knows just what the next stage of restrictions will be, and when we will be back at the tables. I am hoping that club bridge will resume early in September . . . ??

Since the last newsletter, three of our members have died, Irene Galloway, Bob Jacques and Lynne Lahman. They will all be missed at our club.

Irene was, of course, such an outstanding and long-serving member of the club. She had been at various times, bridge teacher, Treasurer, Secretary and President, a determined and resolute fund-raiser and an absolute servant of both the club and the game. She had nearly notched fifty years membership. She was one of our honoured Life Members.

Have a look some time at the Honours Book that records the various competition winners over the 52 years of our club and consider the sheer number of times that Irene Galloway features. For example, Irene first triumphed in the Aureen Klarwill Trophy in 1974. And she won it again in 2019. In all, she won that trophy nineteen times.

After a couple of weeks of playing “social bridge” in June, real competitive play recommenced at the beginning of July. That first night back (Wednesday 1 July) the

“breakout from lockdown” honours were shared by Dale Wills/Francis Vagg and Graham Cheater/Jeanne Wardell competing in the Wilson Pairs.

It’s hard to report on progress with all the various competitions running Monday through Friday and the committee will have quite some task determining the winners, with the earlier lockdown causing many of the competitions to be run with a curtailed number of sessions.

Nevertheless, it’s hard to go past the way **Dale Wills and Jane Bradbury** are advancing in the Ferrier Pairs. After three sessions, they are in top place, averaging an astonishing 73% ! And they are improving . . . their last result (July 3) was nearly 80 % !!!

After 5 of the 7 sessions for the Suisted Ladder, **Brett Windley** is leading the pack. After 4 sessions of the Kilmister Pairs, **Jane Bradbury and Stuart Thurston** have nudged to the front. And **Doug Galyer and Claudia Duncan** have already prevailed in the Winter Pairs (Thursday nights in July) by a very, very comfortable margin.

However, in the Editor’s view, **the most significant result in the July to mid-August period belongs to Gillian Travers and Lyn Dash – second in the Intermediate Pairs at Kapi Mana on the 27th July. Well done, the two of you!**

THE LAW CONNECTION SPONSORED PAIRS: 9TH August 2020

This popular one-session tournament, a completely In-House tournament, attracted a full house. Well, perhaps not quite a chock full house but 18 tables seemed to certainly fill the clubrooms. Great to see such a positive and cheerful turnout.

Plenty of spot prizes, various raffles, great food, a free drink or two, and a cheerful and well-organised Director . . . what more could you want? Yes, I know a few hands with plenty of points and all the trump splits to go your way.

Warm “thank you” to Noelle in the kitchen and Ray behind the bar and Helen at the scoring table . . . and various volunteers too. It takes a lot of helpers to run these tournaments.

A round up of some of the usual suspects again appeared at the very top of the field. **Pauline Reid and Lucy O’Regan** topped Section A and all the rest of the day’s entries, from **Doug Galyer and Jane Bradbury**. Well done in a very competitive top section.



**Proud winners of the first tournament, after many months without bridge
– Pauline and Lucy.**

Lyn Dash and Gillian Travers, no doubt fresh from their performance at Kapi Mana, were top of Section B, from **Jos Graves and Helen Edwards**.

In Group C, **Ruth Futter and James Fulton** were the winners, from **Keith and Marg Lees**. **James and Ruth** were also 3rd in the whole field, an impressive result from the third section.



Ruth and James seem well satisfied with their partnership and their results!

Section D winners were **Brian Pender and Tony Davies**, (a neat partnership of Past and Present Presidents), from **Jenny Prendeville and Fay Manley**.



Two delighted Presidents sharing the podium.

Finally, **Eliza Thomson and Allison Basire** won Section E with **Jan Foley and Rae Lutman** in second place.



Allison and Eliza cheerfully take the chocolates instead of the wine!

During the In-House tournament I was entertained in a break in play by the truly delightful **Nan Page**. Nan took a few moments and thoughtfully explained some of her bidding philosophy.

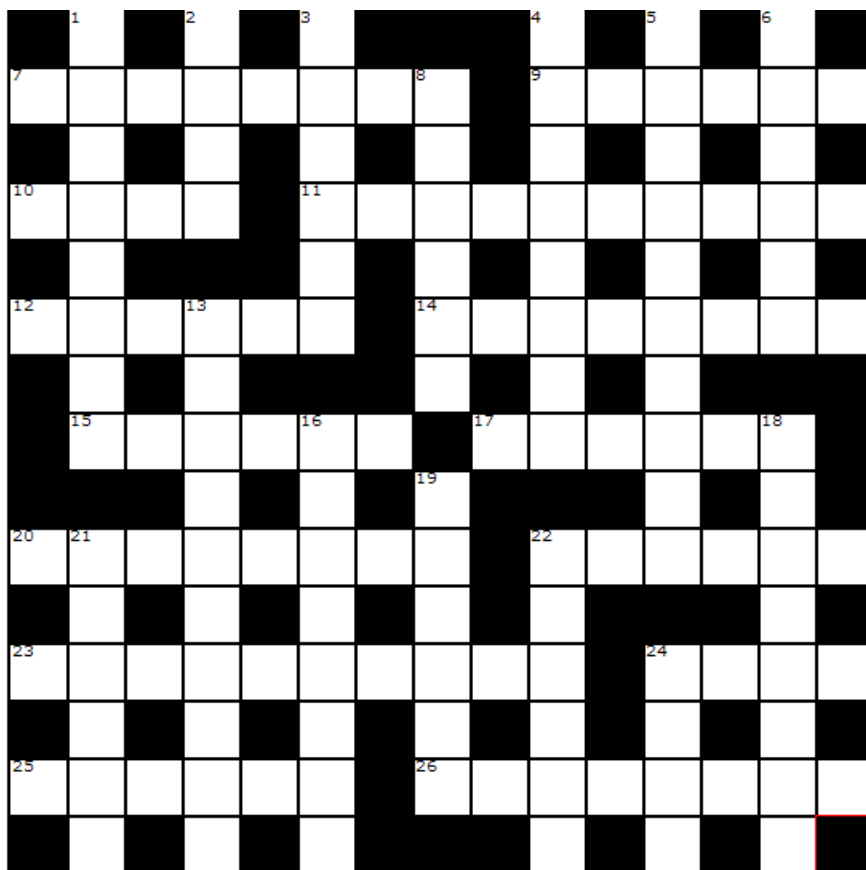
With a fine, calculated disregard for such arcane machinations as Lebensohl, Jacoby Transfers, Meckwell escapes, Stayman (and also Baby Stayman) or Blackwood (and also Baby Blackwood and also Roman Keycard Blackwood) **Nan just stresses the straightforward.** “Keith, when you’ve got two suits, six and four . . . then you simply bid some more!” and when “you have a distribution six and five, Keith, you simply have to ‘come alive’!!!”

There’s much to like in that approach to bidding and Nan tells me there’s a lot more from where they came from. Maybe a series of Nan’s bidding tips, in rhyme? Not quite the same analysis that you get in Dale’s Tips (copies still available at the back of the clubrooms) but the rhymes do make them memorable. Nan tells me she has enough for dozens of newsletters.

After all the fun was over, a picture of the deep satisfactions to be found in leading a bridge club. At the end of the tournament, Tony shows us what being the President all is about.



To finish, I usually try to have an interesting hand but I discovered a clever crossword for you all to try. You'll need a bit of time because first, **it's a cryptic crossword** and second it's in the style of the Guardian and they are a tad difficult. You have been warned. Anyway, **it's a crossword about bridge**, of course (and YES, "bridge" is one of the answers). There you go, I've started you off! I'll put the solution up on the club noticeboard as soon as our competitions start again. No prizes, just the satisfaction.



Across 7 One hoping trick will work, actually being taken in by French (8) 9 Handsome youth holding hand down bids in **oddly** deficient way (6) 10 After top honour, duke worsted in court, in a way (4) 11 Hard to handle, like a pointless holding? (10) 12 Positive indicators about right requirements for contract (6) 14 Difficult partner no longer playing (8) 15 Claim about line with ace and queen that's made by professional (6) 17 Don't follow suit - change to green energy (6) 20 Complaint I had rejected - more upset about diamonds (8) 22 Defend against South, in another test for learner (6) 23 Made first bid, holding cards tight? Just the opposite (4-6) 24 Reports from one couple at table about another (4) 25 Didn't bid spades, oddly (6) 26 Turn of partner to err - for example, about passing (8)

Down 1 For instance, gets rid of diamond, being heartless? (8) 2 Start putting one's cards on the table in corrupt deal (4) 3 Concerns - lots of little ones raised by partners, normally (6) 4 Patience, for example, as funny fellow hunted animals (4,4) 5 People managing without skill name business associates (2-8) 6 Nothing old foursome raised for player taking bow (6) 8 Some 19 that's extractable from tropical plants or shrubbery (6) 13 Bid one's spades over West, showing immaturity (10) 16 Penalties for players, not clubs (3,5) 18 Blow to West coming from unwise bid, ultimately, since double goes in (4,4) 19 Part of 6 or 24 down for English composer (6) 21 Way to dramatically expose king not ruled out (2,4) 22 Leader's odd new arrangement of pack (6) 24 Advance cautiously, finishing in **two hearts**, vulnerable (4)

EDITOR: KEITH LEES